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Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Plurinational State of Bolivia

Addendum

Views on conclusions and/or recommendations, voluntary commitments and replies presented by the State under review

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1. In accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and President's statement 9/2, the Plurinational State of Bolivia describes below the progress made towards the realization of human rights from October 2014 to the present.

2. The general elections held on 12 October 2014, in which President Evo Morales was re-elected with more than 61 per cent of the votes, consolidated the democratic and cultural revolution which seeks to realize the objective of "Living Well" for the Bolivian population as a whole.

3. One of the most important changes in historical terms has been the increased number of women who are members of the newly formed Plurinational Legislative Assembly. Since 2014, 49 per cent of the members of the Legislative Assembly have been women. The percentage of women members stands at 44 per cent in the Senate and 51 per cent in the Chamber of Deputies. According to data from the Women in Politics Map 2014 drawn up by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the Plurinational State of Bolivia ranks as the second country in the world for the participation of women, after Rwanda.

4. Conditional cash transfers have been provided to vulnerable groups since 2006; they include the Juancito Pinto grant for primary and secondary students, the Juana Azurduy grant for mothers and children under the age of 2, and the Renta Dignidad (dignity pension) for persons over the age of 60. Some 4,583,422 Bolivian citizens, more than 40 per cent of the total population have benefited from these grants since December 2014. In 2014, the coverage of the Juancito Pinto grant was extended to include 6th grade secondary students and an additional 13th monthly payment was added to the Renta Dignidad.

5. The Government introduced the Bachiller Destacado – Excelencia en el Bachillerato (Outstanding student – Excellence at school) incentive bonus in 2014; this is an annual grant of Bs 1,000 for students in the 6th grade of secondary school (the last school year) in every school in the country. Laptops are also progressively being given to all students in the country.

6. The economic growth of recent years has resulted in an improvement in the population's income level. The Government has simultaneously introduced price control measures for certain products and services so as to halt the rising cost of living and has also granted conditional cash transfers to vulnerable groups. These factors have helped to increase the purchasing power of households, with a consequent reduction of poverty.

7. Progress continues to be made as regards the right to housing: decrees have been approved under the 2014 Financial Services Act that provide housing guarantee funds for both low-income families and the productive sector. As from April 2015, these funds will enable persons to take out loans for home purchases or to establish productive companies without the need for an initial deposit.

8. Public security is another area where tangible progress can be noted. This is a result of the structural changes made to the Bolivian police force, namely improvements in the quality of training, working conditions and access to appropriate technology. Since February, the Ministry of the Interior has also increased by more than 5,200 the number of new police officers performing law and order duties on the streets of the country's nine departments.

9. Regarding the implementation of the Comprehensive Act on guaranteeing a life free of violence for women that punishes femicide by 30 years' imprisonment, there is an ongoing national campaign to eradicate all forms of violence against women. Rapid response units have been established within the national police force to investigate any allegations of acts of violence against women. A hotline has also been introduced to

respond immediately to any such reports. Thanks to these efforts, awareness of violence against women has been raised and the issue is now discussed on a daily basis in the media.

10. Supreme Decree No. 2145 of October 2014 sets forth the minimum percentage of revenue from the direct tax on hydrocarbons that autonomous departmental governments must allocate to establish, equip and run refuges and temporary shelters for women victims of violence and their dependents and that autonomous municipal governments must invest to implement, equip and operate comprehensive municipal legal services. The greatest impact has been in the autonomous departmental governments, and has resulted in the development of a specific defence and protection of women programme.

11. In order to strengthen indigenous peoples' participation in decision-making, an international conference on the Parliaments and Rights of Indigenous Peoples was held in April 2014. Parliamentarians and representatives from over 20 countries attended as part of efforts to prepare for the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples in September 2014, as proposed by the Plurinational State of Bolivia through the United Nations framework.

12. The outcomes of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, adopted by General Assembly resolution 69/2, promote inter alia the inclusion of indigenous peoples' rights in the sustainable development goals, the full implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the universal ratification of the International Labour Organization (ILO) Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169).

13. Steps are still being taken to improve access to justice, and a national judicial summit has been scheduled for 2015 in an effort to bring about tangible change. Preparatory workshops for this summit involving diverse sectors of the population, academia and legal professionals are being held. The outcomes of the summit will be subject to broad consultation via a national referendum.

14. As to other developments in the administration of justice, in February 2015, convictions were handed down under summary proceedings in the terrorism case brought against Mario Tadic (Croatian) and Elod Toaso (Hungarian), who must serve a sentence of 5 years and 10 months' imprisonment for the offence of armed uprising against State security and sovereignty in the second degree. This verdict was reached in accordance with the law and the case followed a fast-track procedure at the request of the accused, who pleaded guilty on all counts. Both individuals will serve their sentences in the San Pedro prison in La Paz.

15. The human rights policy and action plan for 2015–2020 have been approved by the National Human Rights Council and are currently being implemented in all branches of Government down to the departmental and municipal levels. The action plan includes all the recommendations made by the treaty bodies of conventions ratified by the Plurinational State of Bolivia and the recommendations accepted during the universal periodic review.

16. The Code for Children and Adolescents, adopted in July 2014, has been introduced so as to guarantee children and adolescents the full enjoyment of their rights and their full development under conditions of equality and equity. The rights provided for under the Code apply to persons under the age of 18. The provisions of the Code are interpreted in the best interests of the child or adolescent in accordance with the State Constitution and the relevant international human rights conventions, where applicable. The Code has been implemented using funds allocated by the State, the autonomous departmental and municipal entities and private companies that comply with corporate social responsibility requirements.

17. Regarding the right to health, progress continues to be made under the National Sexual and Reproductive Health Strategic Plan 2009–2015, which allocates resources for

the inclusion of new contraceptive methods in the comprehensive health system, the training of health personnel in the use of new contraceptive devices and the establishment of a Sexual and Reproductive Health Committee to monitor the sector.

18. The Family and Family Procedure Code was adopted in November 2014; it broadened the concept of the family and strengthened the right to identity, family assistance and the elimination of discrimination. The social rights of families have been strengthened to respect their diversity.

19. The Act of October 2014 designed to ease prison overcrowding and improve the effectiveness of the criminal justice system has been implemented with the aim of introducing procedures that ease overcrowding by expediting the processing of criminal cases and reducing backlogs in the courts. It provides, inter alia, for new solutions to restrict pretrial detention, greater recourse to alternative sentencing and the elimination of certain procedures in order to expedite case processing.

20. Inter-agency committees continue to provide up-to-date data to the National Statistics Office for the development of human rights indicators, which provide statistical data on labour rights, access to justice, food, health, drinking water, education, housing, violence against women and trafficking.

21. The Plurinational State of Bolivia is deeply committed to implementing human rights, as recognized in the Constitution and the international human rights' treaties to which the country is a party and whose provisions it is implementing with the full participation of civil society pursuant to Agenda 2025. Inter-agency meetings have been held since 5 March to disseminate the recommendations of the universal periodic review according to the agencies' respective mandates and thus bring into being an inter-agency human rights framework for the preparation of reports.

22. The Plurinational State of Bolivia will continue to fully implement human rights so as to ensure good living, in harmony with Mother Earth.